

To: Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund Advisory Board  
From: Nancy Selman  
Date: February 19, 2003  
Re: Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2003

Next meeting dates: Second Tuesday of every month. 3/11, 4/8, 5/13, 6/10, 7/8, 8/12, 9/9, 10/14, 11/11, 12/9.

In attendance: See attached Attendance List.

- 1) Wind Incentives: A presentation was made by Erich Stephens and Nancy Selman which covered a range of topics including turbine prices, cost of energy, value of displaced energy, siting issues, etc. Many questions/issues were raised including:
  - a) The appropriateness of the current small wind turbine subsidy of \$1.50 per watt
  - b) Whether a letter should be sent to the PUC regarding removal of backup rates for renewable energy self-generation. (Current backup rates are in effect until the end of 2004.)
  - c) The lack of available wind turbines in the size range of over 10 kW to 100 kW.A committee was set up to study the issues further and make final recommendations on incentives for both large and small wind projects: Dave Jacobson, Dick Michaud, Erich Stephens, Bob Grace and Nancy Selman. Erich Stephens will present an overview of prospecting efforts funded by the past Collaborative at the March meeting.
- 2) PP&L: An agreement has been drafted and is under review by the SEO. The Board was asked to approve expenditure of \$15,000 for a continuation of advisory services to PP&L by Fund consultants in addition to the proposed grant of approximately \$225,000 (in 2 rounds, the first being \$105,000 and the second to be determined but currently estimated at \$120,000). The request was approved.
- 3) DLT Training: An update was given on plans for the training of electricians and plumbers to prepare them to participate in the market for solar. Chris Warfel is developing an outline for the training session and a manufacturer from CA has offered to make available hardware and staff for the training free of charge.
- 4) Sterling Planet: A letter was sent to the company notifying them of the defects in their proposal to the Fund pursuant to the Small Customer RFP. Bob Grace had since received a call from Bob Maddox who now works for Sterling Planet with an update. A compliant proposal is expected in March.
- 5) Sun Power Electric: Bob Grace presented Sun Power's proposal pursuant to the Small Customer RFP. The proposal is fully compliant. A letter will be sent to the company informing them that the proposal was accepted. During the discussion, the issue of marketing inside the 3 Shaw's stores was raised – it was felt that the marketing was less than adequate

compared to the expectations of the Collaborative upon funding the proposal made under the Large Customer RFP in 2001/2002. Sun Power will be notified that the Board does not believe current marketing efforts are adequate.

- 6) PV Incentives – The Board discussed whether the increased PV incentive of \$5 per watt should apply to commercial projects. Several proposals were made including setting the incentive for commercial customers to \$4 per watt and putting a cap on total \$ per project. More information will be obtained on programs in other states as well as the true cost of a PV project (large and small) and presented to the Board.
- 7) PV on Schools – The Board approved the inclusion of elementary schools in the program. An effort will be made to obtain elementary level curriculum “off the shelf” in order to save the cost and time of development.
- 8) Budget – A draft budget was circulated and discussed. The Board was requested to provide comments by email in order to have a final discussion at the March meeting.
- 9) CRS Outreach – CRS submitted a proposal for \$8000 to have Claudine Schneider appear at speaking engagements and meet with legislators and businesses the week of the Flower Show. The Board denied the request.
- 10) Apeiron – Apeiron has requested to organize 5 workshops (in addition to the 5 which were put on in 2002) at a cost of \$2800 per workshop. The proposal was approved by the Board.
- 11) Guidelines for Fund Programs – Draft guidelines were circulated prior to the meeting. The Board was asked to provide comments by email and a subcommittee consisting of Bob Grace, Janice and Nancy Selman was set up to further develop the draft.
- 12) Letter to Legislature – Draft was circulated prior to the meeting. Comments which were discussed:
  - a) A change in legislation this session will require a bill to be introduced quickly. The Board is not prepared to do this at this time.
  - b) Fuel cells should be included as an additional technology.
- 13) Project Update – An update of active projects submitted by Chris Warfel was circulated.

#### Decisions:

- 1) The Board approved expenditure of \$15,000 for a continuation of advisory services to PP&L by Fund consultants in addition to the base grant of up to \$225,000.
- 2) The Board approved Sun Power’s proposal registering the company for the Small Customer Incentive Program.
- 3) The Board approved the inclusion of elementary schools in the Solar on Schools program.
- 4) The Board denied a request submitted by CRS for \$8000 to have Claudine Schneider appear at speaking engagements and meet with legislators and businesses the week of the Flower Show.
- 5) The Board approved Apeiron’s request to organize 5 workshops (in addition to the 5 in 2002) at a cost of \$2800 per workshop.

#### Actions

- 1) Wind subcommittee will make recommendations to Advisory Board.
- 2) Letter to be drafted to PUC requesting changes in backup rates.
- 3) Erich Stephens will present past Collaborative efforts to develop wind in RI.
- 4) Letter to be sent to Sun Power informing of Board's approval of the application for the Small Customer Program.
- 5) Commercial PV incentives by other state renewable energy funds (and cost data if available) will be investigated.
- 6) Erich Stephens will provide data on residential and commercial PV system costs in RI.
- 7) Off-the-shelf elementary school curriculum for Solar on Schools will be researched.
- 8) Board members to send comments on draft budget by email. Budget to be finalized at March meeting.
- 9) A letter will be sent to Apeiron notifying of approval of request for funding of 5 workshops.
- 10) Board members to comment on Draft Program Guidelines. Subcommittee will make recommendations at next meeting.

#### **Attendees List**

Bill Lueker  
Bob Grace  
Dave Stearns  
David Jacobson  
Doug Hartley  
Erich Stephens  
Gary Ciminero  
Janet Keller  
Janice McClanaghan  
Julie Capobianco  
Kurt Teichert  
Matthew Penfield  
Michael Hill  
Nancy Selman  
Pat Condon  
Richard Michaud  
Roger Buck  
Sheila Dormady  
Tim Howe  
Vincent Rose